

Message Text

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14

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AF-08 ARA-06

EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 H-02

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /097 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9505

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4040

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: UN FIFTH COMMITTEE: SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS

REF: USUN 4003

1. USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE WITH SOLID OPEC AND LDC CONNECTIONS INFORMED DELOFFS THAT FORCE BEHIND FIFTH COMMITTEE DECISION TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF ITEM ON SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS IS CONCERTED MOVE ENGINEERED BY OPEC STATES TO NULLIFY RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS ON SCALE FOR 1977-1979. OPEC STATES REPORTEDLY MEETING SECRETLY TODAY TO DEVISE TACTICS. SOURCE BELIEVES THOSE STATES WILL SEEK TO POSTPONE DECISION ON SCALE UNTIL 32ND UNGA, THUS CONTINUING EXISTING SCALE UNTIL NEW SCALE ADOPTED AND AVOIDING, AT LEAST FOR NOW, INCREASES IN OPEC STATE ASSESSMENTS. VOTE ON SUCH MOVE WOULD BE VERY CLOSE, SOURCE BELIEVES, AND PROPOSAL MIGHT BE APPROVED.

2. IN VIEW OF LOWERED ASSESSMENT IN PROPOSED 1977-1979 SCALE, USSR WOULD REFUSE TO CONTINUE CONTRIBUTIONS AT 1974-1976 RATE AND MIGHT DISCONTINUE PAYMENTS ALTOGETHER, HE SPECULATED.

3. COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS CHAIRMAN AMJAD ALI WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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DESCRIBED AS BEING POWERLESS AND INEFFECTIVE IN EFFORTS

TO THWART DEVELOPMENT.

4. USDEL PLANS TO CONSULT WITH LIKEMINDED DELEGATIONS ON TACTICS AND TO INFORM SECRETARIAT AT HIGH LEVEL TO URGE SECRETARIAT ACTION. WHILE WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE OPEC MOVE SQUASHED QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY WE DO NOT PLAN TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP OR HIGH VISIBILITY BECAUSE IT IS NOT OUR OX WHICH IS GORED; U.S. CONTRIBUTION WILL REMAIN AT 25 PERCENT UNDER ANY OUTCOME.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE. COMMENT: NOT MENTIONED THUS FAR TO OUR KNOWLEDGE IS IMPLICIT THREAT TO U.S. ASSESSMENT AT 25 PERCENT RATE. ALSO, SHOULD ISSUE ESCALATE INTO A SHOWDOWN IT MIGHT PROVIDE INTERESTING TEST OF ARAB HOLD OVER OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, MANY OF WHICH STAND TO BENEFIT FROM THE REVISED LOW PER CAPITA INCOME FORMULA PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS. SCRANTON

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